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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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- Two possibilities for medical training exist in the USSR. A prospective physician, having graduated from a ten-year school, may attend a medical institute for five or six years, following which, if he passes an examination, he obtains a diploma. He then works in the service of the State. Physicians, both male and female, who report to the Army receive the rank of senior lieutenant.
- Students who wish to become military surgeons must attend a seven-year school but need not graduate [from a ten-year school] in order to attend the medical institute. In contrast to the career of civilian physicians, the career of military surgeons includes no specialized training. The professional knowledge of the military surgeon is comparable to that of a rural-area general practitioner who does not work in a hospital.
- Applicants accepted for training as military surgeons receive the rank of junior lieutenant upon entry on duty with the Army. By and large, applicants for military surgeon training are selected for admission to the medical institute on the basis of political character. During their training, more stress is placed on political indoctrination than on professional training. It is believed that this latter fact accounts for their rather poor knowledge of, and low degree of professional competence in, their field.
- A transplantation of a cornea into the eye of a blind man, which was performed at the Filatov Ophthalmological Hospital in Odessa, did not result in the darkening of the lens which results from the German method of performing this operation. When performing this operation according to the German technique, the removed and preserved cornea is stored at temperatures of more than four degrees centigrade. The German technique calls for cornea storage without regard to the temperature factor. Soviet physicians stored these corneas at a temperature of exactly four degrees centigrade.

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